



PUBLIC NOTICE

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DEBT COLLECTION ACT (DCIA) REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, AND OTHER BENEFICIARIES OF THE COMMISSION'S UNIVERSAL SERVICE AND NUMBERING PROGRAMS

Docket Nos. 02-6, 99-200, 95-116

Release Date: September 16, 2004

Effective October 1, 2004, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will implement its new rules further implementing the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (DCIA). The new rules will have an impact on anyone doing business with the FCC – including applicants for numbering resources, schools, libraries, and other universal service beneficiaries – who is delinquent in debt owed to the agency.

The new rule, found at 47 C.F.R. §1.1910 and commonly referred to as the “red light rule,” provides that any entity or person filing an application or seeking a benefit from the Commission or one of its components (including the Universal Service Administrative Corporation, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), and the Thousands Block Pooling Administrator (PA)) that is delinquent in debts owed to the Commission will be barred from receiving any benefit until the delinquency has been resolved. Under this rule, when an application or request for benefit is filed, the FCC Registration Number (also referred to as “FRN”) will be checked to determine if the entity or person is delinquent in debt owed to the Commission. See September 8, 2004 Public Notice.

All participants in the Schools and Libraries Program that currently hold an Entity Number or Billed Entity Number must obtain an FCC Registration Number. Also, ineligible consortia leaders and consultants must obtain an FCC Registration Number. In addition, all service providers with a SPIN must obtain an FCC Registration Number. If a participant already has an FCC Registration Number, there is no need to obtain another. An FCC Registration Number may be obtained on the FCC website through the Commission Registration System (CORES). CORES may be accessed from the main page of the FCC website at www.fcc.gov. To obtain an FCC Registration Number by mail, contact the FRN Help Desk at 877-480-3201 for FCC Form 160.

We encourage everyone doing business with the FCC to resolve any outstanding debts prior to October 1, 2004. If you are uncertain about the status of your outstanding bills for collection, open bills can now be viewed by accessing the newly expanded Fee Filer on-line system located on our website at <https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/FeeFiler/login.cfm> or by sending an e-mail to ARINQUIRIES@fcc.gov.